

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

June 2, 2003  
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Degginger, and Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Lee<sup>1</sup>,  
Mosher, and Noble<sup>2</sup>

ABSENT: Mayor Marshall

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Degginger opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately 45 minutes to discuss one item of property disposition.

The Study Session resumed at 6:44 p.m. with Mr. Degginger presiding.

2. Study Session

- (a) Update on Finance/Human Resources System (Enterprise Resource Planning or ERP) Acquisition

Toni Cramer, Chief Information Officer, presented an update on the Finance/Human Resources System project (also known as the Enterprise Resource Planning, or ERP, project). She reviewed the project schedule and indicated that contract negotiations are underway. Staff plans to return for Council approval of the project contract in early July. Implementation will begin in July and core financial functions are scheduled to be up and running by February/March 2004. Additional Council updates are scheduled for November 2003 and March 2004.

Staff informed Council in March that due diligence activities would be conducted for two vendors, JD Edwards and Sungard Bi-Tech. Site visits have been completed and each company's products, references, and financial positions have been fully investigated. Staff selected JD Edwards as the preferred vendor primarily because its product is an enterprise, highly integrated set of modules with the desired flexibility for implementation. The system will integrate data currently dispersed in several systems citywide.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Lee arrived at 6:10 p.m.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Noble arrived at 6:22 p.m.

Ms. Cramer clarified that the City's contract is with AMX International, an exclusive reseller of JD Edwards' software. AMX provided installation and implementation for all of the sites visited by City staff. They have excellent references and a proven track record and reputation. Ms. Cramer said JD Edwards was recently acquired by PeopleSoft, a major ERP vendor. PeopleSoft plans to maintain JD Edwards as a wholly-owned subsidiary, and the purchase is seen as a PeopleSoft strategy to break into the mid-market tier of ERP software vendors.

Ms. Cramer reviewed the project's objectives including: 1) eliminate the risk of system failure due to current interfaces and/or obsolete technology, 2) decrease inconsistent and redundant data, 3) improve data security, 4) realize efficiencies in work processes, and 5) improve ability to integrate with newer City systems and regional partners.

It is anticipated the project will allow a reduction of 12.5 to 18 FTE (full-time equivalent) positions by 2008. Ms. Cramer noted ongoing discussions with the City Manager and the Leadership Team. City staff is dedicated to: 1) redesigning business processes to leverage the software's "best practices," 2) reorganizing and redeploying the work force to work more efficiently and effectively, and 3) implementing integrated functionality aggressively in the coming years to eliminate redundant and stand-alone systems. A net reduction of 8 to 14 FTEs by the end of 2006 is anticipated. This includes adding 4 FTEs now to adequately staff the project. Every effort will be made to accomplish FTE reductions through retirements and attrition.

Ms. Cramer reviewed the expertise to be provided by the 4 ERP project FTEs:

- Human Resources Information Systems Specialist is needed to implement, administer, and maintain the human resources, timekeeping, employee self-service, and payroll applications.
- Enterprise Reporting Specialist will program and maintain financial and human resources reports for all departments in the City.
- JD Edwards System Administrator will implement, manage, and maintain multiple database and application environments associated with the integrated system.
- Help Desk/Application Deployment staff person is needed to configure and deploy applications to all City end-users through the desktop or Citrix servers.

Staff members evaluated a number of staffing options. They concluded that utilizing consultants or hosting the applications through a service provider would be more expensive. The needed skill set is in high demand and it would be difficult to recruit and retain staff if hired on a limited-term employee basis. Ms. Cramer said existing support staff have been reassigned to assist with the ERP project where possible.

Ms. Cramer explained that the proposed staffing plan is consistent with budget amounts previously approved by Council. In addition, the project contract will allow the City to acquire more modules than originally thought possible. Staff will return to Council in July with a resolution for approval of the following elements:

- Contract for software and implementation services with the preferred vendor,
- Revised staffing plan,
- Expenditure authority for remaining project budget.

Mr. Mosher questioned the system's ability to utilize e-government applications. Ms. Cramer said negotiations with AMX and JD Edwards have included discussions about intellectual property. They have agreed to contract language that allows the City to exchange and/or sell derived software (software built by the City using JD Edwards' copyrighted tool sets) without their consent. This includes e-gov applications shared by multiple jurisdictions.

Deputy Mayor Degginger thanked staff for the presentation.

(b) Skate Area Planning and Development Strategies

Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran introduced Todd Mitchell, Project Manager, and Joe Moorman, a Recreation Specialist who essentially pioneered the indoor skate park and BMX track.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Skate Park Focus Group's objectives and strategies for short-term and long-term skate area planning and development. He provided a brief history of skating, which first developed in the late 1940s and grew rapidly in popularity throughout the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Dozens of private skate parks were built in California during the 1960s and 1970s but most closed by the late 1970s due to a slowing economy and liability issues. Tort reform in the late 1980s and early 1990s to limit liability renewed interest in public skate park development.

There are currently more than 300 public skate parks under construction in the United States. Skateboarding has become a \$3 billion per year industry and there are approximately 9.3 million skaters under the age of 18 in the U.S. A growing number of adults are practicing the sport as well. Skateboarding is the third largest participant sport in the country with a lower injury rate than other organized sports.

Mr. Mitchell said Bellevue opened its first indoor skate park, located at Highland Community Center, in June 1994. It covers approximately 4,000 square feet and attracts 6,000 to 7,000 visitors per year. However, a steady decline in usage is attributed to the development of free outdoor skate parks in surrounding communities including Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah, Renton, Seattle, Woodinville, Kent, and SeaTac.

In 1998 the City Council appropriated funds for an outdoor skate park by providing for the Youth Link Priority Projects – Non-Traditional Recreational Facilities project. In response to citizen involvement in 2002, a special study was conducted to discuss locating a skate area south of I-90. Lakemont Community Park was identified as the best location for a skate area. However, estimated costs for development at this location were considered to be too high. In 2003, the Skate Park Focus Group was created to further study the issue and develop short- and long-term strategies to meet the needs of this sport's participants.

Mr. Mitchell said the Skate Park Focus Group developed the following list of recommendations and suggestions:

- Build more than one skate area and have them geographically distributed throughout the community. Provide skate areas at the neighborhood level.
- Develop large, medium and small skate areas.
- Develop skate areas that allow for progressive levels of challenge/skill. A citywide network of skate areas will help keep skaters off private property.
- It is desirable to develop skate areas that can accommodate both skaters and BMX riders.
- Skate areas should be free to users and illuminated when possible.

The focus group discussed and defined a range of skate facilities. A skate park covers a minimum of 10,000 square feet, accommodates a wide range of skill levels and skating styles, includes simulated street obstacles, contains bowls ranging from 3 to 10 feet deep, and provides a layout to minimize interferences for multiples users at the same time. A skate court is smaller at 2,500 to 5,000 square feet, focuses on one style of skating, and contains a simulated street area or a large ramp and bowl but not both. A skate plaza is less than 1,000 square feet and is specifically designed for skater use.

Mr. Mitchell said the Skate Park Focus Group then evaluated local parks to identify appropriate locations for skate facilities. Evaluation criteria addressed adjacent land use compatibility, park compatibility, environmental impacts, pedestrian and vehicular access, parking, and visibility into the skate area. The focus group recommends the following short-term strategy:

1. Develop a skate park at Highland Community Center. Replace the existing BMX area with a multi-use (skater and BMX) concrete park. The site could accommodate a 10,000 to 15,000 square foot park.
2. Develop a skate court at Crossroads Park. A 4,000 to 5,000 square foot Crossroads skate court has been approved and funded through the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) process.
3. Identify a skate court location south of I-90, preferably at Lakemont Community Park or Lewis Creek Park.

The recommended long-term strategy is to:

1. Locate a skate court in Downtown Bellevue due to its central location. This option has been recommended in the Downtown Needs Assessment and requested by the Bellevue Downtown Association.
2. Develop a second skate park south of I-90.
3. Evaluate the need for and feasibility of skate plazas in neighborhood parks and mini-parks as opportunities arise.

Mr. Mitchell said a briefing will be provided to the Parks and Community Services Board on June 10. The Skate Park Focus Group encourages the development of short-term projects in 2004.

Responding to Mr. Mosher, Mr. Mitchell attributed the decline in usage of Bellevue's indoor BMX facility to the growing number of outdoor skate parks in adjacent cities. Mr. Foran said the facility is oriented for beginners while experienced skateboarders are interested in a more challenging skate park.

Mr. Creighton said he recently visited Sitka, Alaska, which has a large skate court at a school facility. He inquired about the potential for a partnership with Bellevue School District. Mr. Mitchell said the District does not allow skating or skateboards on school property and has no interest in developing a skate park. Mr. Creighton feels the highest priority location should be south of I-90. He noted downtown may not be feasible due to property costs. However, it would make sense in terms of convenient bus access for youths.

Mr. Noble and Dr. Davidson suggested Eastgate Park as a potential location for a skate area. Mr. Foran said this possibility was discussed earlier during the master plan process. He explained the physical constraints associated with Eastgate Park and the desire to retain tennis courts at the park. Mr. Foran said Eastgate Park, although large, is heavily forested and contains slopes. The open area is slated for development of the community center.

Mr. Noble suggested the park to be developed adjacent to the Eastgate Boeing property. Mr. Foran acknowledged this option will likely be introduced when the master planning process is initiated in the future.

Deputy Mayor Degginger feels Lewis Creek Park is not a suitable location for a skate area due to programming decisions already made for the park, the adjacent residential area, noise issues, parking, and potential environmental impacts. Lakemont Park and Crossroads are more desirable locations due to their proximity to business areas.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Mr. Foran said Factoria Mall has not been discussed as a possible location. Responding to Mr. Degginger, Mr. Foran said next steps include outreach activities to encourage public involvement in the planning process. More work is needed to identify viable locations south of I-90.

Responding to Mr. Creighton, Mr. Moorman said 6,000 residents have signed up as members of the Bellevue Skate Park. Mr. Creighton questioned how that compares to the number of participants in other recreational sports. He feels if this is considered a legitimate sport, the City should pursue further discussions with Bellevue School District.

Mr. Mosher inquired about the potential for a partnership with Newcastle or Issaquah. Mr. Mitchell said the Issaquah School District appears open to discussions. However, both ISD schools in Bellevue are elementary schools which are considered to be less desirable than a high school location.

Mr. Lee would like more data regarding the legitimacy of skateboarding as a sport and how it compares to other sports activities.

Mr. Degginger encouraged further discussions with Bellevue School District and neighboring jurisdictions. He suggested removing Lewis Creek Park from further consideration.

Mr. Noble and Mr. Creighton indicated Lewis Creek Park should be considered only if all other options are exhausted.

Mr. Mosher encouraged staff to continue working with residents to identify support for neighborhood skate park areas.

At 7:45 p.m., Deputy Mayor Degginger declared recess to the Regular Session.

Myrna L. Basich  
City Clerk

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